AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS

Enclosed herewith is an amended version of all Figures (1-8). In accordance with the Office's revised format, these drawings have each been labeled "Replacement Sheet".

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-29 and 31-36 are pending.

Claims 1, 9 and 23 are amended.

Claims 3, 16, 30 and 37-41 are cancelled.

In the Non-final Office Action mailed on September 8, 2005, the Examiner objected to the drawings, the Abstract, and the claims 3, 16 and 30, and rejected claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-29 and 31-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In this response, drawings, abstract, specification, and claims 1, 9 and 23 are amended and claims 3, 16, 30 and 37-41 are cancelled. For the reasons set forth in detail below, applicant submits that the present application, including each of pending claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-29 and 31-36 are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Abstract

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the disclosure for not being within the range of 50-150 words, as required by MPEP § 608.01(b). The undersigned has hereby amended the abstract to bring it within the allowable range.

Amendments to the <u>Drawings</u>

The Examiner has objected to the informal drawings, because Figures 2-8 have text that is illegible, and has required new corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d). Enclosed herewith is an amended version of all Figures (1-8). In accordance with the Office's revised format, these drawings have each been labeled "Replacement Sheet".

Amendments to the Specification

While the Examiner has not objected to the specification, the undersigned has hereby amended the "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)" section of the specification, starting from page 1 through page 3, and has added the Application Serial Numbers and/or Patent Numbers of the references which were missing from the original application. By these amendments the undersigned has not added any new matter to this application, rather provided required information regarding the references.

(Allowable Subject Matter) Objection to Claims 3, 16 and 30

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 16 and 30 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The undersigned has amended the independent base claims 1, 9 and 23 to add all the limitations of the objected dependent claims 3, 16 and 30 and has cancelled claims 3, 16, 30 and 37-41. Therefore, the amended independent base claims 1, 9 and 23 are in condition for allowance and accordingly their dependent claims 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17-22, 24-29 and 31-36, which include the features of the independent claims 1, 9 and 23 are also in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-29 and 31-41

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-29 and 31-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hallenstal et al. (US Pat. No. 6,914,911). As mentioned above, independent base claims 1, 9 and 23 are amended to include all the limitations by which they would become allowable. Therefore, the amended independent claims 1, 9 and 23 and their dependent claims 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17-22, 24-29 and 31-36, which include the features of the independent base claims 1, 9 and 23, are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance and, therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6488.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 030048032US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

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